



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Sumter  
National Monument

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## Fort Sumter News Release

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### Fort Sumter flagpoles to be replaced



Work has begun to replace five of the six flag poles at Fort Sumter National Monument. These poles were installed by the National Park Service in 1968, and have now been determined to need replacement with modern, aluminum poles that will better withstand the rigors of the marine environment. On these poles, the park flies replicas of flags that flew over Fort Sumter between 1861 and 1865, during the course of the Civil War.

While the main flag pole at Fort Sumter was placed in its current location around 1959, it is believed to be the same pole that was installed in the early 1930s in a different part of the fort. Its base

(more)

was surrounded by a monument to Major Robert Anderson, commander of Fort Sumter during the April 12-13, 1861 opening battle of the Civil War. This much taller pole is used to fly the current 50-star United States flag.

“Although we are not absolutely certain, we think the 1930s pole was reused and reinstalled at the time of the 1959 move,” said Chief of Resource Management Rick Dorrance. “Because of this uncertainty, the park considers the existing pole to be historic. As part of its responsibility to provide a safe environment for visitors, to protect historic resources, and to manage resources in a cost effective manner, the park is conducting an engineering safety inspection of all the flag poles at Fort Sumter.”

This project will be completed in two phases. Phase I is to dismantle the Anderson Monument and perform an engineering evaluation of the main flag pole’s structural integrity. Phase I is expected to be completed in mid December 2003. The schedule for Phase II, repair of the main flag pole (if needed), reassembling of the Anderson Monument and replacement of the five smaller flag poles, will be determined when Phase I is completed.

For more information, contact park staff at (843) 883-3123.



As the Anderson Monument is disassembled, each piece is carefully numbered in order to rebuild it exactly as it was.

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